

That's a Wrap!

American Indian Workers Improve Skills; Find Employment

OFMC's ARRA-funded On-the-Job Training Program gave workers the skills to find employment.



Former OJT workers Linus Dewane (left) and Stewart Valdo work on a fence project at Sky City School in New Mexico.

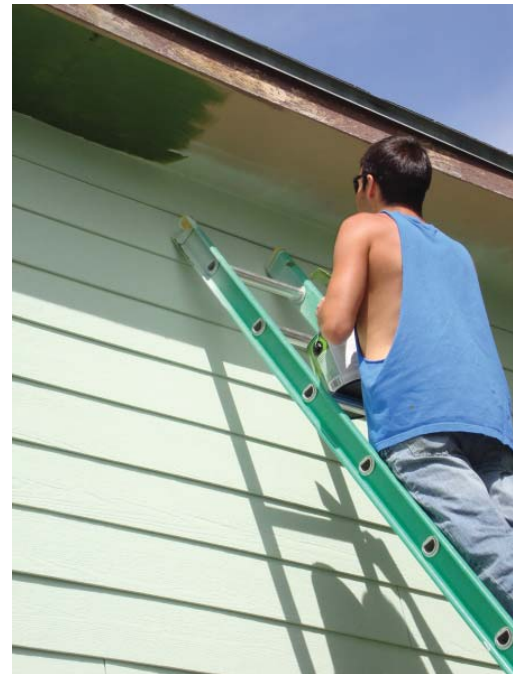


The Boys Construction Company skilled worker William St. Mark (left) shows Workforce Training worker Ryan Sangrey how to fill a tube with joint compound. The company participated in the ARRA-funded OJT Program through a Pub. L. 93-638 contract with the Chippewa Cree Tribe in Montana.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) included funding for an OFMC-operated On-The-Job (OJT) Workforce Training program. The OJT program supplied training in facilities crafts for American Indian workers under the supervision of facility and administrative managers at 53 Indian Affairs field locations. Some of the OJT funding was utilized by tribes through Pub. L. 93-638 contracts.

Current reports show 28 workers found permanent jobs, some in their field of training with tribal or federal employers and some gained positions in the private sector.

A comment during the OJT program by Pauline Wolters, Supervisory Facility Management Specialist at the Pine Ridge Agency in South Dakota, typifies the attitude of various Field location managers toward employing an OJT worker: "(His) selection to our Branch of Facilities has been worth his weight in gold. (He) is an excellent employee and truly dedicated to his job."



Nicholas Barnaby, a Spokane Agency OJT worker, paints a federal facility in Washington state.

In January 2010, South Dakota had an ice storm, followed by a blizzard, which bent and broke power lines for miles around the Cheyenne River Agency. Many people were without electricity for as long as two weeks. The storm also caused problems at the local water treatment plant which resulted in the loss of water for up to a week in some locations.



ARRA OJT employees delivered food, water and supplies to those who were stranded and could not get out. They followed snow plows to remote areas to reach people that needed medical attention. They helped ambulances get out on emergency calls.



Video: Visit two OJT workers now working fulltime for the Southern Pueblos Agency.